



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

to the California Medical Association

Programing for the Auxiliary

THE AUXILIARY bases its year's programing on the aims and goals of the medical association. We correlate very closely with the work of our parent organization. This, along with the program ideas from the National Auxiliary, comprises the outline for the year.

The lighter side is introduced at social functions—bridge parties, style shows, teas, but even this contributes indirectly to the more serious ideals of the Auxiliary in an indirect way. Such functions develop an atmosphere of friendly cordiality. A well-acquainted, friendly group insures successful programs and is more conducive to cooperative effort and interest.

Educating our own membership should be the underlying motive for all program plans. Although legislation is our prime target and should receive the greatest emphasis, we do owe a more immediate responsibility to our community. Awareness of its needs and accomplishments should be as vital to us as is the progress and the protection of the best in medicine. We have an obligation to keep abreast of the history and attainments of our local communities.

Accentuating what medicine has done in public health, space exploration and public safety, to mention a few fields of interest, should have a place on every county auxiliary's program outline. We all know what we oppose, but, to be informed doctors' wives, we need a positive position to present. Although the medical profession's work toward promoting better health through research far exceeds whatever effort it expends in opposition to legislation it considers harmful, the profession has been labeled as always being "against everything." We, ourselves, are partially responsible for permitting this misconception to continue if we neglect to arm our-

selves with facts and figures to demonstrate medicine's major contributions to modern living. Before we attempt to defend medicine, we must be well informed. Part of our program is directed toward this end.

As we are an auxiliary body, all our programs should reflect the ideals of the medical association on national, state and local levels.

MRS. ROBERT J. DOUDS
Program chairman

Doctors and Politics

SO YOU WANT to do scientific medicine and be let alone! So you think the preoccupation with socio-economics (yes, and *politics*) is not the proper function of a medical organization or its woman's auxiliary. Well, if this shoe fits, you probably won't read on anyway—but I can't be shot for trying.

It is hard to believe that you really want to become a sort of technician working for, or at least under the direction of, a government agency. This could happen if some of the social planners are successful in schemes to draw you into the statist complex through Social Security, through Federal Aid to Education, through the National Institutes of Health, through the Veterans Administration control of hospitals and education and the like.

We have done pretty well for free enterprise by being the little boy with his finger in the dike. We have staved off outright federal and state panel medicine for nearly 30 years, and at the same time have had an unequaled *positive* record in standing legislatively for what is good for your patients. Yes, medicine's record is a *positive* record. However, we have a never-ending job to do.

1. *Elect our friends*

This, of course, starts with the primaries in our state. Your respective medical societies must have individual members assigned to contact each candidate running for office in an attempt to find out how he "stands" relative to medicine and federal intervention. Then information as to each candidate's

stand must be disseminated throughout the membership before election. If a candidate is an incumbent, our Public Health League knows his voting record and will readily supply such information. You may rest assured the League is a vigilant watchdog.

Where federal legislation is concerned, we must rely on "friendly" congressmen. This is where we must depend on the work of AMPAC (the American Medical Political Action Committee) and your generous dollars to support the proper campaigns. It is known to all of you that neither the CMA nor the AMA is organized to function in the field of federal politics; thus the necessity for our state political arm, the Public Health League, and our national political committee, AMPAC. In some areas of our state we are reasonably assured of the election of congressmen friendly to our beliefs, while in others there is need for much work and the money necessary for expensive campaigning. Frequently, more money may be poured into a "distressed" area than was contributed by the physicians and others in the area.

2. Defeat our enemies

This sounds like the reverse of the first item, but that is not necessarily so. If neither candidate in an election seems to be wholly on our side, at least we can vote against the one who is a known enemy. Although it is true that most legislators have their minds made up about basic issues before they get

to Washington or Sacramento, some get their best "grass roots education" after election, so one must never give up hope.

3. Keep up the legislative pressure by the following methods:

(a) Propaganda to your family. Among other things, be sure to insist that your wife join the Woman's Auxiliary if she is not already a member.

(b) Propaganda to your friends. They respect your beliefs and also respect *you* for *believing*.

(c) Propaganda to your patients. If you do it right, they will respect you and what you have to say. How you do it must be your own idea. What will work for Tom might be poison for Dick and Harry.

(d) Write letters to your government representatives *yourself*.

4. Never forget that scientific medicine as it is practiced in the United States of America cannot flourish in serfdom.

The job is yours. But you have help—your wives, the Woman's Auxiliary.

MURIEL F. RUMSEY
Legislative Chairman
Woman's Auxiliary to the
California Medical Association

